



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

CATHLEEN CALLAHAN, Executive Director

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MINUTES

May 8, 2007

The regular meeting of the Public Employment Relations Commission was held at 10:00 a.m. in the Hearing Room at the Commission's Olympia office, 112 Henry Street NE, Suite 300, Olympia, Washington. Those present and participating were:

Marilyn Glenn Sayan, Chairperson
Pamela G. Bradburn, Commissioner
Douglas G. Mooney, Commissioner
Cathleen Callahan, Executive Director
Majel C. Boudia, Confidential Secretary
Dario de la Rosa, Assistant to the Commission
Mark S. Downing, Compliance Officer

Also present and participating:

Herb Harris, Washington Public Employees Association

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on April 10, 2007, were approved as submitted.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. The traditional statistics were reviewed. There were 42 cases opened during the month of April, and 53 cases closed. There were 469 pending cases at the end of the month.
2. The "Red List" and "Yellow List" were reviewed. The Executive Director indicated that the lists are still not where she would like them, but several "Red List" cases are in the final stages of editing and should be issued shortly. This may be due, in part, to the fact that preliminary rulings are issuing



faster and hearings are being set earlier so we are experiencing a bubble in writing assignments from old cases and hearing assignments. The Field Services Managers are monitoring this and aggressively addressing our problem area. We will see a turn around.

3. The agency is now recruiting for up to three Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator (LRAM) positions. The announcements were posted at the end of last week, and we have already received several applications.
4. The new agency logo will be unveiled at the next all staff meeting on June 4th in Federal Way. Staff will receive ethics training that morning. In the afternoon the LRAMs will receive training on disability separation cases as we anticipate receiving such mediation cases under the new state contract.
5. Commissioner Mooney asked if staff are expediting hearings. Ms. Callahan indicated that they are, and reported that staff and clientele seem satisfied with the new procedures, although it is a culture change for all concerned. We are encouraging parties to use settlement mediators in unfair labor practice cases where settlements are possible. Herb Harris indicated that the Washington Public Employees Association is pleased, and that only one case has had to be postponed. Representation Coordinator Sally Iverson has implemented a new procedure on representation cases. If there is no election agreement reached during the investigation conference, Ms. Iverson is scheduling a hearing date within 30 days of the investigation conference. Executive Director Callahan noted that we are still finding procedures that can be streamlined.
6. Executive Director Callahan informed the Commission that the LRAM staff received mediation training from the Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County on Tuesday, April 17. The training was well received. This was the beginning of mediation training for the staff, and she hopes to supplement this training with specific labor mediation training at a later date.
7. The agency website continues to undergo changes, even as we are in the process of final selection of bidders to revamp it entirely. Recent decisions will be separated into categories: Commission, Executive Director, and Examiner. Appeals to the Commission will be listed on the website, as will cases that are appealed to Court. There is now a Director's Corner on the website where Ms. Callahan will place news items.
8. Outreach to clientele continues:

- Ken Latsch conducted training for Teamsters Local 690 in conjunction with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.
 - Executive Director Callahan attended the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters' Conference in Yakima and the Washington Council of School Attorneys' Conference in Seattle. She will make a presentation at the Pacific Coast Labor Law Conference later this week, and will attend the Association of Washington Cities' annual conference in Yakima next week.
9. Karyl Elinski received a glowing thank you for her mediation work in a King County mediation case. The Commission reviewed the document.
 10. Greg Stevens, who represents the Colville School District, reported to Ms. Callahan that Sally Carpenter did a fabulous job in a recent mediation, and that Emily Martin did a great job conducting a recent unfair labor practice hearing.
 11. The Commission extended their thanks to staff for their good work, as indicated above.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dario de la Rosa reviewed the four pieces of legislation that passed through the Legislature, and indicated that they have all been signed into law within the past 10 days:

- **SHB 1916:** An act relating to interest arbitration regarding certain care providers.
- **SHB 2111:** An act relating to making the governor the public employer of adult family home providers.
- **SHB 2361:** An act relating to collective bargaining for certain employees of institutions of higher education and related boards.
- **SSB 5251:** An act relating to the term of existence of a collective bargaining agreement; and amending RCW 41.56.070.

These four legislative items will add 10,000 employees to the agency's jurisdiction by July 22, 2007. Adult family home providers can file for representation after July 23, 2007. Mr. de la Rosa also indicated that the agency budget has been approved. The Commission thanked Mr. de la Rosa for his efforts during this legislative session.

COMPLIANCE DOCKET

Mr. Downing reviewed the Compliance Docket and requested that the cases be held over until the June meeting. Progress is being made on all of the cases.

COURT DOCKET

Mr. de la Rosa reported there are no new cases to report, although several are pending. When asked, Mr. Harris indicated he had no other news to report from the courts.

COMMISSION DOCKET

The Commission docket was reviewed in detail, and the status of each case was discussed. Ms. Callahan has asked Field Services Managers to report cases being held in abeyance due to related cases pending before the Commission. Mr. de la Rosa is monitoring Commission cases that are delaying Examiner decisions.

OTHER BUSINESS


There was no other business to report to the Commission.

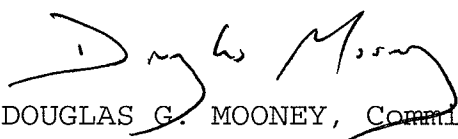
ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was then adjourned.


PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION


MARILYN GLENN SAYAN, Chairperson


PAMELA G. BRADBURN, Commissioner


DOUGLAS G. MOONEY, Commissioner

ATTEST:


CATHLEEN CALLAHAN
Executive Director